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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,678	02/27/2004	John McKenna Brennan	3-82-47	3590

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Suite 205
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Fairfield, CT 06824

EXAMINER

CAO, PHAT X

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2814

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,678

Applicant(s)

BRENNAN ET AL.

Examiner

Phat X. Cao

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 6 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/27/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

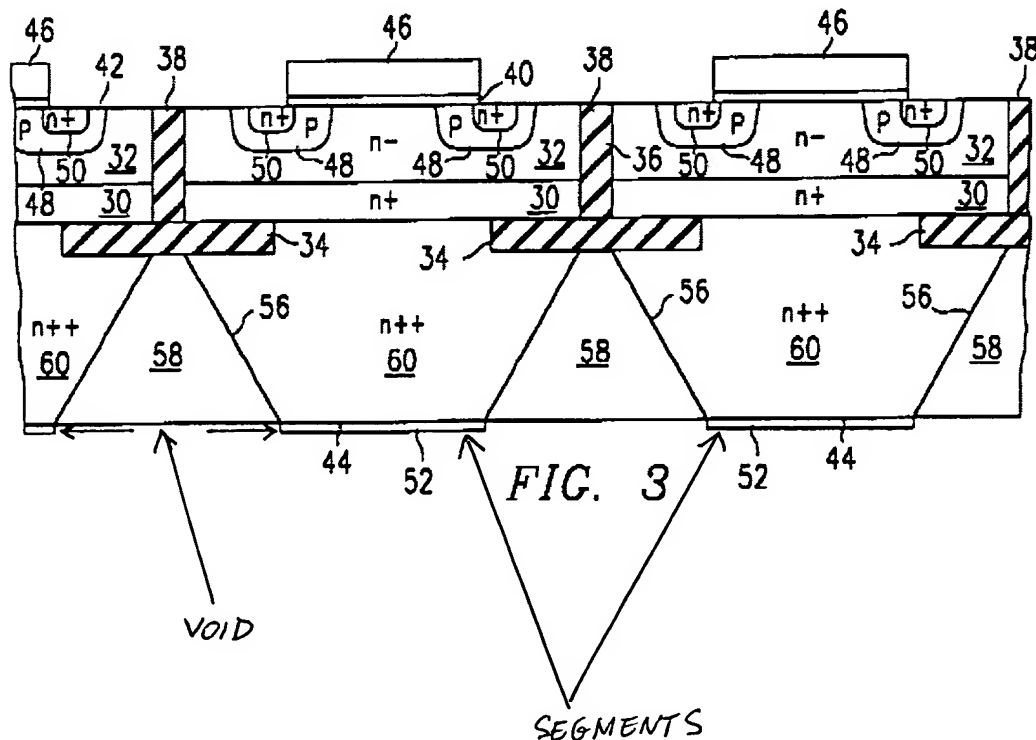
1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9, and 17-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Malhi (US. 6,194,773).

Regarding claims 1, 17 and 18, Malhi (Fig. 3) discloses a power transistor device comprising: a substrate 58; a device film 46 formed on the substrate 58; and a metal adhesion layer 52 formed on a side of the substrate 58 opposite the device film 46, wherein at least a portion of the adhesion layer 52 is segmented (see Figure 3 below).



It is noted that when the structure recited in the reference is substantially identical to that of the claims, claimed properties or functions are presumed to be inherent. *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). Therefore, because the adhesion layer 52 is segmented, the power transistor device would inherently exhibit a reduced amount of bowing relative to an amount of bowing expected without the segmenting of the adhesion layer.

Regarding claims 3-4 and 7, Malhi's Fig. 3 further discloses that the adhesion layer comprises metal material 52 arranged in distinct segments that are uniformly spaced along the adhesion layer, and the voids between one or more of the segments are substantially free of material (see Fig. 3 labeled above).

Regarding claim 9, Malhi's Fig. 3 also discloses that the adhesion layer 52 comprises one or more voids, at least one of which extends partially through the adhesion layer 52.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 8, 10-12, 13-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malhi in view of Tonami et al (US. 2002/0125566).

Regarding claims 2, 10 and 20, Malhi does not disclose that the adhesion layer 52 is selected from nickel having a thickness as claimed.

However, Tonami (Fig. 5E) teaches a semiconductor device having an electrode layer 2 or 15 comprising an adhesion layer 15a of NiCr having a thickness of about 400 angstroms (not shown, see par. [0066], lines 1-3). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to use nickel as the material for the adhesion layer 52 of Malhi because nickel has an adhesion characteristics, as taught by Tonami (par. [0068], lines 1-3).

Regarding claims 11-16, Malhi does not disclose an additional metal layer of palladium and a wettable-surface layer of gold sequentially associated with a side of the adhesion layer 52.

However, Tonami (Fig. 5E) further teaches that the electrode layer 2 or 15 attached to the back surface of the substrate 1 comprises a segmented additional metal layer 15c of palladium and a wettable-surface layer 15d of gold sequentially deposited on a side surface of the adhesion layer 15a of NiCr (par. [0066]). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to modify the device of Malhi by sequentially depositing an additional metal layer of palladium and a wettable-surface layer of gold on a side surface of the adhesion layer 52 because the additional palladium layer would function as a barrier layer for suppressing the diffusion between the adhesion layer and the wettable-surface layer, and because the wettable-surface layer of gold would function as a wire-bonding layer for bonding to an external terminal, as taught by Tonami (par. [0068], lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 8, Tonami's Fig. 5E further teaches that the electrode layer 2 or 15 comprising the adhesion layer 15a is arranged in distinct segments that are non-uniformly spaced along the adhesion layer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to arrange the adhesion layer of Malhi in distinct segments that are non-uniformly spaced along the adhesion layer because rearranging the adhesion layer segments would provide no functional differences and because it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-6 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art of record fails to disclose a power transistor device having the voids between the segments comprising a low stress material (i.e., polymer) (as recited in dependent claims 5-6), or fails to disclose a power transistor device having the adhesion layer partially segmented by patterning along two or more intersecting axes of the power transistor device (as recited in dependent claim 19).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phat X. Cao whose telephone number is 571-272-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PC
October 28, 2005


PHAT X. CAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER